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Barbados, Philippines and United Republic of Tanzania: draft resolution

Implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons: towards a society for all in the twenty-first century

The General Assembly,

Recalling the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming the obligations contained in relevant human rights instruments, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[1] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[2]

Recalling also its resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which it adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[3] 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, 49/153 of 23 December 1994, 50/144 of 21 December 1995, 52/82 of 12 December 1997, 54/121 of 17 December 1999 and 56/115 of 19 December 2001,

Recalling further all of its relevant resolutions on the equalization of opportunities for and the human rights of persons with disabilities, and those of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted on 8 September 2000 by the heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of the United Nations,[4] and recognizing the need to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of people with disabilities,

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[1] Resolution 34/180, annex.
[2] Resolution 44/25, annex.
[3] A/57/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[4] See resolution 55/2.

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Noting with appreciation the initiatives and actions of Governments to implement relevant sections of the Standard Rules and of relevant resolutions that give special attention to accessible environments and information and communications technologies, health, education and social services, employment and sustainable livelihoods, including the relevant activities of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and their respective follow-up reviews,

Noting with appreciation the assessment by the Secretary-General of the implementation of the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities, ensuring their full participation and equality, as well as the measures undertaken by the United Nations system aimed at preventing disabling conditions,[5]

Noting the adoption by the World Assembly on Ageing of the Political Declaration and the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002,[6] which considered "older persons and disability" as a specific issue for policy concern,

Noting also the preparatory work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Comprehensive and Integral International Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Rights and Dignity of Persons with Disabilities of establishing a Working Group with the aim of preparing and presenting a draft text which would be the basis for the negotiation of the draft convention,

Recognizing the strong commitment of Governments to the equalization of opportunities and to the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of development, as well as the increased interest of the international community in the promotion and protection of the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities under a comprehensive and integral approach,

Acknowledging the important role of non-governmental organizations in the promotion and protection of the human rights of persons with disabilities, and noting in this regard their work in promoting the elaboration of an international convention on the rights of disabled persons,

Noting with appreciation the important contributions of regional intergovernmental organizations and the regional commissions of the United Nations in promoting awareness and building capacities for the full participation and equality of persons with disabilities, as well as the outcome of international conferences related to persons with disabilities, including the Interregional Seminar and Demonstration Workshop on Accessible Information and Communications Technologies and Persons with Disabilities, held in Manila in March 2003,

Mindful of the need to adopt and implement effective policies and strategies to promote the rights and the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities at all levels, including at the community level,

Reiterating that technology, in particular information and communications technology, provides new possibilities for improving accessibility and employment

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[5] See A/56/169 and Corr.1, paras. 25 and 26.

[6] *Report of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, Madrid, 8-12 April 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.IV.4), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

for persons with disabilities and for facilitating their full and effective participation and equality, and welcoming the initiatives of the United Nations and contributions from regional groups in promoting information and communications technology as a means of achieving the universal goal of a society for all,

Recognizing the importance of timely and reliable data on disability-sensitive topics, programme planning and evaluation and the need for further development of practical statistical methodology for the collection and compilation of data on populations with disabilities,

Recognizing also the challenge for the new century to incorporate the disability dimension better in mainstream technical cooperation activities, since persons with disabilities are also agents and beneficiaries of development,

Concerned that improvement of awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues and respect for the human rights of disabled persons has not been significant enough to improve the quality of life of persons with disabilities worldwide,

Concerned also about the slow progress on measurement, monitoring and evaluation of the situation of persons with disabilities as a mainstream issue,

Concerned further that the association between poverty and disability needs to be addressed with reference to a development framework as well as the critical importance of rural issues affecting the situation of persons with disabilities,

Expressing grave concern that situations of armed conflict and acts of terrorism continue to have especially devastating consequences for the human rights of persons with disabilities,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[7] on the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;[3] including the Secretary-General's recommendations related to policy options to promote the rights of persons with disabilities in the context of development;

2. *Notes with appreciation* the valuable work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on disability of the Commission for Social Development related to a comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities, in which a twin-track approach in the process to elaborate the convention was recommended, and also notes with appreciation the contribution of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in supporting the work of the Special Rapporteur;

3. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector, as appropriate, to continue to take concrete measures to mainstream persons with disabilities into the development process and promote the implementation of relevant United Nations resolutions and agreed international standards concerning persons with disabilities, in particular the Standard Rules, and for the further equalization of opportunities for persons with disabilities by focusing on accessibility, health, education, social services, sports and cultural development, including training and rehabilitation, information and communications technologies, safety nets, employment and sustainable live'ihoods,

[7] A/58/61-E/2003/5.

in the design and implementation of strategies, policies and programmes to promote a more inclusive society;

4. *Calls upon* Governments to undertake all necessary measures to advance beyond the adoption of national plans for people with disabilities through, inter alia, the creation or reinforcement of arrangements for the promotion and awareness of disability issues and the allocation of sufficient resources for the full implementation of existing plans and initiatives, and emphasizes in this regard the importance of supporting national efforts through international cooperation;

5. *Encourages* Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to take practical actions, including public information campaigns, by, for and with persons with disabilities, with a view to increasing awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues, combating and overcoming discrimination against persons with disabilities and furthering their full and effective participation in society;

6. *Encourages* Governments to continue their support to non-governmental organizations and other groups, including self-help groups, that contribute to the fulfilment of the implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, and in this regard, recognizes the important contribution of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement of the Statistical Commission;

7. *Also encourages* Governments to involve persons with disabilities in the formulation of strategies and plans aimed at eradicating poverty, promoting education and enhancing employment;

8. *Urges* relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including relevant human rights treaty bodies and the regional commissions, as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, to continue to work closely with the programme on disability of the Division for Social Policy and Development of the Secretariat in the promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities, including activities at the field level, by sharing experiences, findings, and recommendations on persons with disabilities, and to incorporate the disability perspective in their activities;

9. *Stresses* the importance of urgent action to improve data and statistics on persons with disabilities so that they can be compared internationally for purposes of policy design, planning and evaluation from the disability perspective;

10. *Urges* Governments to cooperate with the Statistics Division of the Secretariat in the continued development of global statistics and indicators on disability, and encourages them to avail themselves of the technical assistance of the Division to build national capacities for national data collection systems, including the compilation and dissemination of data on disabled persons, as well as the development of methods for data collection and disability statistics, as appropriate;

11. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide special protection to girls and women with disabilities, older people with disabilities, rural people with disabilities, indigenous people with disabilities, persons disabled owing to terrorist acts and armed conflict and persons with developmental and psychiatric disabilities, with special emphasis on integrating them into society through enabling interventions and environments

essential to their independence, including reasonable accommodation, and protecting and promoting their human rights;

12. *Urges* Governments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, to give special attention to the rights, needs and well-being of children with disabilities and their families in the development of policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Standard Rules;

13. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, concerned non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to support the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability with a view to strengthening its capacity to support catalytic and innovative activities to implement fully the World Programme of Action and the Standard Rules, including the work of the Special Rapporteur, and to support activities to build national capacities, with emphasis on priorities for action identified in the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to support initiatives of relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, as well as those of regional, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutions, for the promotion of all human rights of, and non-discrimination in respect of, persons with disabilities and the further implementation of the World Programme of Action, as well as their efforts to integrate persons with disabilities in technical cooperation activities, both as beneficiaries and as decision makers;

15. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for his efforts in improving the accessibility of the United Nations for persons with disabilities, and urges him to continue to implement plans to provide a barrier-free environment;

16. *Welcomes* the review by the Secretary-General in his current report on the fourth quinquennial review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action,[7] and requests the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.